

# EL PORTAL MARKET

ICE  
CREAM

DAIRY  
PRODUCTS

FRESH  
MILK







Mariposa County Fire  
FIRE INVESTIGATION  
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

Incident: MMU#4767, YNP#08-0896  
Mariposa County Fire#330, YNP Fire#08-042

April 21, 2008  
Structure Fire 'El Portal Market'  
10893 Hwy 140, El Portal, CA 95318

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  - e. Project Chronology and Photos by Bill Rust
  - f. Sketch of Fire
  - g. Photo, Sketch and Log
  - h. Statements
  - i. Investigator DC7106 Curriculum Vitae

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Harold Nolen

  
Division Chief, #7106

4-25-08  
Date



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SUMMARY:

El Portal Grocery Store, a 2 story, commercial building reported as a structure fire at 05:15, April 21, 2008. Responding units found building fully involved and reported it on the ground shortly thereafter. Mariposa County Fire Investigator was requested at this time.

VICTIMS & WITNESSES

W1, Goodmorning, Sunshine, Female = REPORTING PERSON

[REDACTED]

W2, Potts, Brad, Male

[REDACTED]

W3, Carter, Hugh, Male = PREVIOUS TENANT, EL PORTAL MARKET

[REDACTED]

W4 Rust, Bill, Male

[REDACTED]

W5, Keheley, Kevin, Male

[REDACTED]

W6, Johnson, Stewart, Male

[REDACTED]

W7, Sheetz, Skip, Male

[REDACTED]

W8, Schoonover, Richard, Male

[REDACTED]

W9, Falkenstein, Chris, Male

[REDACTED]

W10, Proflame Propane Co., Joe Lozano

[REDACTED]

Victim & Witness page 1 of 2

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V1, Kari, Kristie, Female



V2, U.S. Park Service, Park Superintendent  
Michael Tollefson, Male



Victim & Wittness page 2 of 2

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EVIDENCE

No physical evidence collected.  
Photo evidence (see Photographic Log).

PROPERTY:

Commercial, 57'x30', 2 story building, known as the El Portal Market and constructed in 1934. Attached to the main structure is a 10'x10' metal refrigeration unit. Three additional storage units: #1 is a 45' truck trailer used to store grocery items, #2 is a 30' truck trailer used to store dry goods and equipment, #3 is a 24' refrigeration unit for storing frozen foods. Radiant heat from the main structure ignited and destroyed all 3 storage units.

NARRATIVE:

On 4-21-08 a commercial structure fire was reported to be at 10893 Hwy 140, El Portal. Upon arrival, units from Yosemite National Park Fire found the building to be fully involved with fire. A Fire Investigator from Mariposa County Fire was called to the scene.

DC7106 arrived at scene at 05:59 and started a preliminary investigation and interviewed victims and witnesses. Pictures of the area were taken by DC7106 as well as Mr. Brad Pott (W2).

It is the opinion of the Investigator after interviewing witnesses and a thorough investigation of the fire scene that the origin of the fire was in the area of the electrical splice box, on the west side of the main structure between the main electrical service drop and the building electrical meters. Electrical wiring arcs in the splice unit indicate the arcing was the ignition source of the fire. The metal splicing unit had holes burnt through the unit and opening into the building. (See photo exhibit # DSCO5336). The building service panels did not trip immediately due to the splice unit placement ahead of the meters and distribution boxes (See exhibit #1A).

Wiring in the building was a mix of 1930 style knob and tube wiring, romax wire and conduit wiring. The main service feed from the weather head to the splice unit and then into 3 power meters from left to right: Meter #1 was disconnected and is believed to have served the old 2nd story apartment which had burnt and was abandoned in 1969; Meter #2 fed a 100 amp service box; Meter #3 fed a 125 amp service box. According to the Building Contractor and Park Electricians, the 125 amp service box was under review for possible replacement due to overloaded conditions and bad wiring. Per Hugh Carter (W3) some breakers in the 125 amp box did not make contact at times causing the overhead lights in the store to go out and arcing in the power box.

The years of extreme weather conditions, age of the building and recent construction activity coupled with the condition of the building wiring aided the quick ignition and destruction of the structure.

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Division Chief, #7106

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# **ATTACHMENTS**

- a. Fire Report Mariposa**  
**Incident: 10893 Hwy 140, El Portal, CA 95318**
- b. Dispatch Logs = YNP and MMU**
- c. YNP Fire Preplan**
- d. Assessors Property Info**
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## STRUCTURE FIRE REPORT INFORMATION - MARIPOSA COUNTY FIREDEPT

Date of Incident: <u>4-21-08</u>		GENERAL PROPERTY USE		STATISTICS	
ECC #: <u>4967</u> / <u>NPS 08-0896</u>		41 - 1-2 Family Residence		Date	Time
MPA #: <u>330</u> / <u>YNP FIRE 08-042</u>		16 - Restr, food service, bar		Estimate Start	<u>4-21-08 0500</u>
Fire Name: <u>STORE</u>		42 - Multi-Family dwell		First Enroute	<u>4-21-08 0518</u>
Incident Address:		47 - Mobile Home Park		First On Scene	<u>4-21-08 0519</u>
<u>10893 Hwy 140</u>		59 - Business, Office Use		Contained	<u>4-21-08 0630</u>
<u>E1 MORTAL-CA 95318</u>		65 - Farm, Agricultural		Controlled	<u>4-21-08 0946</u>
SITUATION FOUND		<u>(80)</u> Storage, Warehouse		End	<u>4-21-08 1330</u>
① - Structure Fire		Other: <u>FOOD STORE</u>		EQUIPMENT	TOTAL#
Other:		SPECIFIC PROPERTY USE		MCFD Engines	<u>E37</u>
WEATHER		411 - 1-2 Family Dwelling		MCFD Trucks	
① - Clear		<u>(926)</u> - Out Bldg, excl garage		MCFD Rescues	<u>R22</u>
2 - Cloudy		815 - Barns, Stables		MCFD Squads	
3 - Rain		420 - Apartments		MCFD Command	<u>C-7100 DC7106</u>
5 - Hail, Sleet, Ice		Other: <u>FOOD STORAGE</u>		MCFD Personnel	<u>5</u>
6 - Lightning		STRUCTURE OCCUPIED		Battalion Chief #	<u>YNB - B-31D-3</u>
7 - Fog		1 - Occupied at incident		Other Engines	<u>E1 - E33 - E23</u>
8 - High Winds		<u>(2)</u> Not occupied		Other Personnel	<u>3 - 5 - 4</u>
FIRST PERSON INVOLVED		STRUCTURE STATUS		TYPES OF ACTION TAKEN	
OC - Occupant		2 - In Use w/furnishings		11 - Rescue	
TE - Tenant		<u>(1)</u> Under Construction		12 - Vent, Extinguish, Salvage, Overhaul	
OO - Occup/Owner		3 - Not in Use		<u>(13)</u> Extinguish, Salvage, Overhaul	
<u>(W)</u> Witness		5 - Vacant, secured		14 - Salvage & Overhaul	
PO - Property Owner		6 - Abandoned, unsecured		15 - Extinguishment	
UN - Unknown		Other:		<u>(11)</u> Investigate	
RP - Reporting Party		INJURIES		98 - No action taken	
Name: <u>SUNSHINE GOOD MORNING</u>		Fire Service:		Other:	
Address:		Non Fire Service:		FORM OF MATERIAL FIRST IGNITED	
State:		Name (s): <u>O</u>		10 - Structural component, Finish	
Zip Code:				11 - Exterior Roof Covering	
Telephone:				<u>(12)</u> Exterior Sidewall Covering	
SECOND PERSON INVOLVED		FATALITIES		15 - Interior wall covering	
OC - Occupant		Fire Service:		16 - Ceiling Covering	
TE - Tenant		Non Fire Service:		17 - Structural Member, Framing	
OO - Occup/Owner		Name(s): <u>O</u>		18 - Insulation	
<u>(W)</u> Witness				31 - Mattress, Pillow	
PO - Property Owner				76 - Cooking Materials	
UN - Unknown				32 - Bedding	
RP - Reporting Party		METHOD OF EXTINGUISHMENT		Certainty: <u>(1)</u> Certain 2 - Almost Certain	
Name: <u>BARB POTTS</u>		1 - Self extinguished		3 - Most Probable 4 - Best Estimate	
Address:		2 - Garden hose, etc		PROPERTY MANAGEMENT	
State:		3 - Portable Extinguisher		<u>(1)</u> Private 4 - State	
Zip Code:		<u>(5)</u> Water of Apparatus		8 - County <u>(9)</u> Other <u>USPS</u>	
Telephone:		Other -			
RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)					
Name: <u>KIRSTIE KART</u>					
Address:					
State:					
Zip Code:					
Telephone:					
Name: <u>US PARK SERVICE</u>					
Date of Birth: <u>PARK</u> Sex: <u>SUPT.</u>					



**AREA OF ORIGIN**

21 - Sleeping Room      23 - Dining Area  
 24 - Kitchen, cooking area      26 - Laundry Room  
 43 - Supply Storage Room      47 - Garage/Carport  
 57 - Chimney      74 - Ceiling/Roof  
 (75) Wall Assembly      77 - Exterior roof area  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**EQUIPMENT INVOLVED IN IGNITION**

11 - Central Heating Unit      52 - Dryer  
 16 - Chimney, Gas Vent Flue      22 - Fixed Stationary Oven  
 14 - Indoor Fireplace      31 - Central Air Conditioner  
 15 - Portable Local Heating Unit  
 13 - Fixed, Stationary Local Heating Unit  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Serial #: \_\_\_\_\_

**FORM OF HEAT**

32 - Short Circuit from Mechanical Damage  
 33 - Short circuit from Defective Insulation  
 (34) Unspecified Short Circuit Arc  
 37 - Heat from Overloaded Equipment  
 46 - Heat from Properly Operating Elect Equip  
 47 - Heat from Improperly Operating Elec Equip  
 61 - Cigarette  
 65 - Match, Lighter  
 Certainty: (1) - Certain      2 - Almost Certain  
                          3 - Most Probable      4 - Best Estimate

Roof Covering: 1 - Tile      (2) Composition Shingle  
 3 - Wood Shakes/Shingles      6 - Metal      7 - Built-up

**TYPE OF MATERIAL FIRST IGNITED**

31 - Fat Grease(food)      40 - Plastic  
 (65) Fiberboard, Particle Board      67 - Paper  
 72 - Cotton, fabric      Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Certainty: 1- Certain 2- Almost Certain 3- Most Probable

**CONSTRUCTION TYPE**

1 - Type I - High fire resistive rating, concrete, min 3 hr rating  
 2 - Type II - Fire Resistive rating of 2 hrs or less  
 3 - Type III - Exterior non/limited combustion-interior combustible  
 4 - Type IV - Exterior non/limited combustion - interior wood  
 (5) Type V - Exterior and bearing walls, floor roof combustible

**DETECTOR SYSTEM TYPE**

1 - In room/space of fire origin, alerted occupants  
 2 - Not in room/space of fire origin, alerted occupants  
 3 - In room/space of fire origin, did not operate  
 (4) Not in room/space of fire origin  
 5 - Not in room/space of fire origin  
 6 - Operated but not a factor in discovery of fire  
 7 - Operated but occupants failed to respond

**IGNITION FACTOR**

110 - Incendiary, Arson Criminal Act  
 120 - Intentionally Set, Non Criminal  
 140 - Suspicious  
 310 - Abandoned Discarded Heat Source  
 330 - Falling Asleep  
 350 - Heat source placed too close to combustible  
 360 - Children Playing with heat source  
 460 - Combustible placed too close to heat source  
 (530) Short Circuit, Ground Fault  
 590 - Mechanical Failure  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certainty: (1) - Certain      2 - Almost Certain  
                          3 - Most Probable      4 - Best Estimate

**CONTRIBUTING FACTOR (IF ANY)**

212 - Careless Act      217 - Misuse of Equipment  
 231 - Drowsiness      241 - Juvenile Activity  
 242 - Juvenile Left Unattended      (623) Equipment Malfunction  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Extinguishment System: (98) - No system  
 Wet/dry sprinkler system, Ansul system, Halon

**FLAME DAMAGE**

1 - Confined to Object of origin  
 2 - Confined to part of room or area of origin  
 3 - Confined to room of origin  
 5 - Confined to story of origin  
 6 - Confined to structure of origin  
 (2) Extended beyond structure of origin  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXTENT OF SMOKE DAMAGE**

1 - Confined to object of origin  
 2 - Confined to part of room or area of origin  
 3 - Confined to room of origin  
 6 - Confined to structure of origin  
 (2) No damage of this type

**MATERIAL GENERATING MOST SMOKE**

31 - Fat, grease (food)      40 - Plastic      67 - Paper  
 (2) Fiberboard, particle board      72 - Cotton, fabric

Dollar Damage to Building: 366,000 - 24,000 - UNK

Dollar Value of Building: 366,000 - 24,000 -

Dollar Damage to Contents: 100,000 - 150,000 -

Dollar Value of Contents: 100,000 - 150,000 -

Insurance Company: NONE NONE

**DETECTOR SYSTEM FAILURE**

1 - Power supply (shut off, disconnected, no battery)  
 2 - Improper install or placement of detector  
 3 - Defective Detector instrument  
 4 - Inadequate maintenance

## Consolidated Report



YNP #08-0896

YNP FIRE #08-042

Linked responses by incident or duplicate

## Responses

Date/Time	Agency	Resp Seq Num	Inc Seq Num	Incident Created	Address	Zone	Resp Type	Priority	Disposition Codes
P 4/21/2008 05:14:20	Yosemite NPS	NPS:2008:04:21:2			EP STORE CI # 896 SFA # 42	ELP99	FIRESTRU	11-FIRE/LE	CASE CARD CLEAR CLOSED WITH REPORT FIRE

Caller Information:

SUNSHINE GOODMORNING, [REDACTED]

Confidential Information :